

# NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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[www.supremecourt.ne.gov](http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov)

### **Media Advisory**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **New Approval Process for Becoming a Court-Listed Parenting Act Mediator**

Mediators who wish to be listed as an approved Parenting Act mediator on the Nebraska State Court Administrator's "List of Approved Parenting Act Mediators" must submit an application for approval to the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR). The application is a web-based application, and may be found at <http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/mediation/p-act-mediators.shtml>. Paper applications will not be available.

Requirements to be approved as a Parenting Act mediator are also found at this website link. The requirements include training, apprenticeship, and commitment to continuing mediator education. The requirements are based upon provisions found in the *Nebraska Parenting Act* as well as in the *Policy for Approval of Parenting Act Mediators*.

ODR has targeted July 1, 2009 as the date at which the first official "List of Approved Parenting Act Mediators" will be made available to all trial court judges and the public. To ensure consideration to be included in the July 1, 2009 list, applications should be submitted on or before May 15, 2009. The official "List" will be updated regularly after July 1.

The process of developing the *Policy for Approval of Parenting Act Mediators* and the related *Nebraska Standards and Ethics for Family Mediators* began in earnest at the June 4, 2008 Family Mediator Standards Project kick-off meeting, held in Lincoln. Keynote speaker was Christine Coates, J.D., a practicing family mediator from Boulder, Colorado and former chair of the ABA's Dispute Resolution's ADR and Family Functions Committee. Ms. Coates spoke to a 50-member stakeholder group in regard to national standards of practice for divorce and family mediators.

Four working groups were formed at the June 4 event to create Nebraska's *Policy* and *Standards*. Over forty individuals, representing law, courts, social work, and child and family therapy were involved. The steering committee included Debora Brownyard, Lincoln; Laura Dendinger, Wayne; Carl Eskridge, Lincoln; Alan Frank, Lincoln; Paul Galter, Lincoln; Lorin Galvin, Omaha; Casey Karges, Lincoln; Patricia Kelley, Omaha; Linda Sanchez-Masi, Lincoln; and Rick Vest, Ashland. Four district court judges participated on the committees: the Honorable John Icenogle, Kearney; the Honorable Patricia Lamberty, Omaha; the Honorable Patrick Rogers, Norfolk; and the Honorable John Samson, Fremont.

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The web-based mediator approval application was a joint project of the Administrative Office of the Courts and Nebraska.gov. The design makes the application easily accessible and convenient for the user.

For more information:

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